

# Community Services

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# Current Trends: Superior and Surrounding Areas

- Burglary & 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Criminal Trespasses
- Targeting
  - Open/unlocked vehicles
  - Open garage doors
  - CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

# Overview

- Crime Prevention Tips
- Vacation Check List
- Keep Your Identity Safe
- Organizing Your Community

# Crime Prevention Tips & Safety

- Factors that lead a burglar to skip your house
  - They believe your coming home soon
  - You make it difficult to take advantage of your home or car

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- What are you communicating when you leave your house to run an errand?
  - A note telling people you are gone
  - Might as well say
    - Dear Bad Guy: I'm not home right now. Please let yourself in, there's food in the fridge. By the way my jewelry box is in my dresser, second drawer from the top, under the bikinis.
  - No keys under flower pots, mats, rocks

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- What can you do instead?
  - If you have to leave a note, make sure it's a safe note:
    - Hello Bruno: Sorry we had to run to the store – you have a key let yourself in. By the way will you please feed the beast while you are here.
  - You will make the crook think twice before he picks your house.
  - **MAKE YOUR HOUSE A HARD TARGET**

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- Take Simple Precautions
  - Alarm system warning decals
  - Extra window and door locks
  - Lighting (Motion)

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- Trim excess foliage blocking the view of front doors, garage and other access points
- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the street
- Dead-Bolt locks vs. Latch style locks
- Close garage doors and lock your doors



# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- Use locking pins: Can be placed in the track of sliding doors to prevent entry
- Notify your neighbors (If you are comfortable) when you are out of town
  - They will be the link to communicating with the sheriff's office if something suspicious occurs

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- Stop Car Prowls & Auto Theft
  - Lock your car doors & take keys with you
  - Don't leave valuables in your car
  - Don't hide valuables in your glove box or under the seat (Criminals know to check)
  - Don't leave personal records or title in your car
  - Park in garages or well-lit areas
  - Consider anti-theft devices (Club, microchip)

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- BOULDER COUNTY TRAILHEADS

- Take only the essentials with you:
  - Keys, cash, ID
  - Don't leave your essentials in the car
- Check the area as you are locking your car
- What types of crimes and experiences has the sheriff's office encountered at trailheads?

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- What are you advertising at your house?
- Don't place boxes in front of your house after purchasing new TVs or high end electronics. It makes it easy for thieves to know what goodies you have.

# Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

- Mail

- Don't use your mailbox to send out-going mail. Use blue post office boxes instead.
- PO Boxes are recommended
- Shred any personal mail or paperwork with your personal identifying information before discarding.

# Vacation Checklist

- Have good locks on all doors and windows and use them
- Ask a neighbor to watch your house while you are away. Also leave your neighbor a means to contact you in case of an emergency
- Don't leave a house key hidden outside your home

# Vacation Checklist

- Stop all deliveries (Mail, newspapers, milk, etc.) or arrange for a neighbor to pick-up these items
- For extended vacations: Arrange for someone to mow your lawn and keep your house looking as if it's lived in
- Plug in timers to turn on lights, a radio or television at appropriate times

# Vacation Checklist

- Turn bell or ringer down low or off on your telephone. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone
- Don't announce your absence on answering machines or advertise to people you don't know
- Leave your blinds, shades in normal state



# Vacation Checklist

- Don't close the shades on your house unless this is normal. Remember your neighbors will be watching for abnormal things
- Close and lock garage doors. Have your neighbor park in your driveway occasionally
- Secure storage sheds, attic entrances & gates

# Vacation Checklist

- Inform the sheriff's office you plan to be away and request an "Extra Patrol"
- Contact the Boulder County Sheriff's Office at 303-441-4444 or 303-441-3650
- Document your valuables, including serial numbers. Keep the information in a secured location (Safety deposit box)
- Take photographs of your high ticket items and serial numbers (Jewelry, TVs, etc...). It will help with an insurance claim

# Vacation Checklist

- Travel Safely
- At home or away, staying alert can save the day
- If you are driving make sure your vehicle has been properly serviced for the journey
- Let someone know your route of travel and expected arrival time
- Have fun and enjoy your vacation!

# Keep Your Identity Safe

- Identity Theft is the new trend
  - According to the US Postal Service, there were ten million incidents of identity theft in the U.S. in 2004 at a cost of 5 billion to consumers
  - Victims reported spending 30 hours on average, cleaning up after they were victimized at an average cost of \$500

# Keep Your Identity Safe

- Identity thieves commit their crime in several ways:
  - Steal mail, which contains credit card payments, checks, personal information
  - Dig through garbage cans, dumpsters in search of cancelled checks, credit card statements, bank statements & pre-approved credit card offers
  - They hack computers that contain personal information
  - They file change of address forms in victims names to divert mail and gather personal & financial data

# Keep Your Identity Safe

- What can you do to prevent and respond to being an identity theft victim?
- Make a list of all your account numbers and customer service phone numbers. Keep the information in a safe and available place
- Keep track of new credit cards you are supposed to receive in the mail and call the bank ASAP if they don't arrive
- Don't put your credit card number on the internet unless it's encrypted on a secured site
- Most major banks offer bill pay & ebill services

# Keep Your Identity Safe

- Pay attention to your billing cycles and call your bank if statements don't arrive. Missing statements could mean your account has been taken over by a crook
- Order your credit report twice per year and check to make sure no unauthorized accounts have been opened
- TransUnion: 800-680-7293
- Experian: 888-EXPERIAN
- Equifax: 800-685-1111

# Keep Your Identity Safe

- Correct all mistakes on your credit reports ASAP
- Contact the credit bureau if you find problems
- Write to Direct Marketing Association, Mail Preference Service, PO Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735 to get your name off direct mail lists



# Organizing Your Community

- The Boulder County Sheriff's Office cannot be successful without you.
- Get to know your neighbors
- The goal of having a safe community relies upon community involvement
- The sheriff's office desires to provide quality customer service

# Boulder County Sheriff's Office

- Mission Statement

- We provide the citizens of Boulder County with effective and efficient public safety services. We deliver these services with character, competence, and open communication.

# Organizing Your Community

- Create Community Watch Group
- Suggestion: Plan and host Community Events
  - BBQs, ice cream social, picnics
  - National Night Out (August 2009)
- Maintain ongoing communication with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office

# Sources of Information

- National Crime Prevention Council  
*www.ncpc.org*
- <http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/POLICE/burgti1.html>
- <http://www.crimepreventiontips.org>
- Some of the information contained in this power point presentation was obtained from the above sources. For additional information, please visit the above websites. They contain additional valuable information on other related topics.

# Thank You

- Questions
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